MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 MARCH 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- A joint armed forces-revolution guards communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed that in their latest offensive Iranian forces have smashed the Iraqi IV Army Corps, killing or wounding some 25,000 men and capturing about 15,000 others. After listing annihilated Iraqi units, the communique said Iran has destroyed about 360 tanks and personnel carriers and captured 150 tanks, 170 personnel carriers and about 500 other vehicles. It added that Iranian forces have liberated about 2,000 sq km of territory, mainly in northern Khuzestan. Dezful, Andimeshk and Shush are no longer within Iraqi artillery and missile range, the communique said, and Iranian forces have retaken the reserve airport at Dehloran. According to another military communique carried by the radio, Iranian planes shot down an Iraqi aircraft west of Dezful, bringing to 22 the number of Iraqi planes downed since 21 March.

An Iraqi military source said Iranian claims about the results of the battles in the Shush and Dezful sectors are baseless, INA reported. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio said Iraqi helicopters struck at Iranian targets in the southern sector, killing 50 Iranians, and all Iraqi planes returned safely to base after strikes in the northern and southern sectors.

Iraqi Defensive Reorganization -- Iraqi President Saddam Husayn announced in a message to the IV Army Corps carried by INA that the Armed Forces General Command has decided to reorganize the corps' defensive positions to the rear after these forces had absorbed the impact of the enemy offensive, destroyed its strength and stopped the attack in that sector. Warning that the Iranians will depict this decision as a sign of weakness, Saddam Husayn said this reorganization of Iraq's defenses does not conflict with the principle of persistence in fighting whenever necessary. Iraq will choose the place on which to stand, whether inside Iran or on the border if this guarantees a better military situation to defend Iraq and prevent the enemy from advancing into it. While stressing the need to prevent an Iranian thrust into Iraq, Husayn also claimed that the Iraqi Army retains control of five large Iranian cities and that other Iranian cities are within artillery range. He called on the IV Army Corps not to be bitter about withdrawing from Iranian territory since Iraq never claimed this land as its own.

Contending that the Iranians covet Iraq and want to subjugate it, President Husayn said the Iranians' refusal to respond to peace appeals indicates their desire to punish and terrorize Iraq.

Radio on Peace Terms -- A commentary by Baghdad radio's international service said Iraq's positive response to Iran's demand that Iraq withdraw from Iran before a move is made to settle border disputes and its willingness to embark upon a stage-by-stage withdrawal from occupied Iranian territory to end the war are common knowledge. Criticizing the inconsistent and illogical stand of Iranian leaders, the radio said the Khomeyni regime, which started and escalated the war, must be tried and sentenced by an international tribunal.

Husayn Visit -- Saddam Husayn informed visiting Jordanian King Husayn about the situation at the battlefronts, Baghdad radio reported. King Husayn is in Iraq for a visit that will last several days, INA reported.

Israel

Goren-Reagan Meeting -- At his meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren expressed his concern that U.S. mistakes might lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state that would play the role of a Middle Eastern Cuba, Jerusalem radio reported. Rabbi Goren stated that he had coordinated his remarks with Prime Minister Menahem Begin, the radio said.

Carrington Arrival -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir welcomed UK Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington who arrived on 30 March for a 3-day visit, ITIM reported.

Sharon Statement -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told two Knesset committees that Jordanian movement of missiles toward the Jordan River, Syrian deployment of forces south of where they are presently stationed, or Egyptian deviation from the Israeli-Egyptian military agreement on Sinai deployment would constitute a casus belli, HA'ARETZ reported.

Land Day -- Israeli Arabs celebrated Land Day with a partial strike limited to localities controlled by the front affiliated with RAKAH, Jerusalem television reported. In some villages Palestinian flags were raised, roads blocked and tires set on fire. In one village six inhabitants and five policemen were injured when the latter tried to remove a roadblock erected by village youths, according to the television.

West Bank, Gaza Situation -- Under the chairmanship of dismissed Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah, the Nabulus Municipal Council decided not to elect any of its members to replace Ash-Shak'ah and not to agree to the appointment of a mayor by the Civil Administration, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, the PLO warned Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa that his 29 March meeting with the head of the Gaza Civil Administration violated PLO resolutions, HA'ARETZ noted.

Egypt

Mubarak Remarks -- Egypt will not reduce its military expenditure because the armed forces protect Egypt's institutions, freedom and democracy, President Husni Mubarak told National Democratic Party leaders at a meeting reported by government spokesmen cited by MENA. Emphasizing that the Egyptian Constitution will not be amended, Mubarak asserted that the emergency law will be invoked for security reasons only. He reiterated that based on Egypt's recall of Soviet experts, some biased people wish to sour U.S.-Egyptian relations, but he stressed that Egypt is nonaligned and eager to maintain its distinctive relations with the United States. Stressing that there are no obstacles to completing the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, Mubarak announced that Egypt's celebration of the evacuation will be minimal to save expense.

Relations With Israel -- Egypt agrees to Prime Minister Begin's proposal on binding arbitration for resolving the Tabah border issue, according to the Israeli paper MA'ARIV's report on a message from Mubarak to Begin conveyed via Israel's ambassador to Egypt. Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated that he will invite Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to visit Cairo for discussions related to the completion of Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, Cairo radio reported. According to MENA, 'Ali said he will suggest that the joint higher committee meet in the middle of next week.

PLO-Lebanon

Early in March the PLO received information from well-informed American sources that Israel has decided to attack Palestinian resistance bases as well as the Syrian Army in Lebanon before 25 April, the London magazine AL-MAJALLAH reported.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz announced in an interview broadcast by Riyadh television that he is studying a plan for a consultative council. Details will be announced 2 months after the budget and after winning royal approval, he added. Speaking to the editor of the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH, Prince Fahd said the plan should take account of the nature of Saudi society while emphasizing the fact that no ruler can deny the importance of counseling and collective participation in decisionmaking through a selected and competent elite.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL GRANTS INTERVIEW TO BBC TELEVISION

LD301414 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Interview with Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the Revolutionary Council, conducted by BBC television journalist David Lomax for BBC television's "Panorama" program; date and place of interview not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, who invited the Soviet troops to Afghanistan, you or your predecessor, Amin?

[Answer] We are not concerned with who made the invitation prior to the new stage of the April Revolution. The late Nur Mohammad Taraki, the legal chairman of the Revolutionary Council and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, made such a request 14 times. Once the new stage of the April Revolution got underway and the undeclared war launched by reaction and imperialism from Pakistani territory intensified, the DRA Revolutionary Council, which is a legal state authority, requested the further assistance of limited Soviet contingents in safeguarding the country's independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

[Question] Where were you when the Soviet troops intervened in Afghanistan? People in the West believe you were in Tashkent at that time and that you even broadcast a statement to the people of Afghanistan from Radio Tashkent after the Soviet troops gained control.

[Answer] When the CIA agent Hafizollah Amin usurped the legal Afghan Government and carried out a coup d'etat, I was in Afghanistan. The members of the Revolutionary Council and Central Committee were all in Kabul. With the cooperation of the true forces of the party, we were able to unite. We pledged to eliminate Hafizollah Amin, who was acting as an agent. Collective action was taken. We were in Afghanistan. It is the slanderous propaganda of the Western mass media that disseminated fabrications to the contrary.

[Question] How was Hafizollah Amin killed?

[Answer] I told you before that healthy forces in our party, government and state, who constituted the majority, decided to topple the regime of Amin and his band. Thus a legal majority decided that Amin should be brought before a revolutionary court. The court condemned him to death.

[Question] How was he killed?

[Answer] Well, I was not present at his execution. However, Amin was legally sentenced to death.

[Question] You have said many times that Amin was a CIA agent. What evidence do you have to support this claim?

[Answer] As you know, when Amin was in the United States, he was president of the Afghan Student Union in that country. And if you remember, it was revealed at that time that only those people who had been accepted as CIA agents could be appointed as presidents of student unions. This was revealed nearly 15 years ago by U.S. sources. In addition, material was found in Amin's suitcase containing CIA telephone numbers, names and so forth. We published this evidence at the time in the press. It should be mentioned that after toppling the legal Afghan Government, Amin embarked upon acts of terror, intimidation and tyranny and tried to establish secret links with a U.S. agent to accomplish such feats -- not a revolutionary Afghan.

[Question] Was it not inevitable that, with the arrival of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, you would be recognized in the West as a Soviet puppet?

[Answer] Terms such as puppet, satellite and so forth are Western terminology.

Those who know the alphabet of politics and have studied the history of the Soviet Union's policy of peace since the October Revolution will realize that the Soviet system does not sanction the turning of free and independent countries into satellites. Yes, the Soviet Union has artificial satellites, but they are in outer space. In today's world, the essence of Soviet policy is always peace, the freedom of peoples, the rational independence of nations and the progress and development of mankind. The Soviet Union is always against war and against dependence and is always in practice the defender of national liberation movements. We can say that since the April Revolution, in particular since the new stage of the revolution, Afghanistan is freer, more independent and more nonaligned than ever before. Former Afghan regimes were dependent to a greater extent and were connected to reaction, imperialism and colonialism.

[Question] How can Western countries officially recognize your government when there are 80,000 Soviet soldiers stationed in Afghanistan?

[Answer] All countries with whom we had relations in the past are represented in Afghanistan, and the Afghan flag flies at the United Nations. This is symbolic of Afghanistan's independence. As you know, wherever national liberation movements and social revolutions succeed, imperialism stands against that country. It stands against the progress and development of any country where revolution is the will of the people and creates obstacles against that country. A good example of this is Vietnam, where the Americans, and before them the French, took actions against the revolutionary movement of the Vietnamese people. What have the imperialists done against Cuba? What have they done against Ethiopia, against the PDRY and against Angola? Of course this characteristic is part of the imperialists' essence and character. But this cannot prevent a country from being free and independent, especially when a social revolution has been carried out. This depends on the [words indistinct] intentions of imperialists, but we try to pursue a peaceful policy and have friendly relations with all countries of course. Afghanistan does not need those countries which do not want such a thing. We have many firends in the world who not only officially recognize Afghanistan but also are our true friends.

Western countries and the Reagan administration pursue a cold war policy and are against detente, peace and disarmament. At this very moment they are pursuing a policy reminiscent of Dulles. Dulles once said any country that is not our friend and is nonaligned is our enemy. They pursue such a policy, and therefore we are not to blame. The responsibility for the consequences of such a policy lies on the shoulders of international imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, and the Western countries which do not officially recognize the revolutionary, free, independent and nonaligned Afghanistan.

[Question] If you say the Soviet troops in your country are stationed as limited defense units, why do all these helicopter gunships fly from Kabul airport to the valleys around Kabul? What are they for?

[Answer] As you know it is completely clear that the undeclared war from Pakistani territory against Afghanistan is continuing. This undeclared war is supported by U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and other reactionary forces. Do you know that at this moment about 80 military training centers exist in Pakistan, and even though they are not border fronts but small bands similar to American [words indistinct] who embark on subversive activities in Afghanistan; destroy schools, mosques, hospitals and bridges; and kill our children, our brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers. Of course the Afghan Armed Forces are fighting against these bands. The limited Soviet contingents in Afghanistan act as a reserve force, and if aggression is carried out on a broader scale from Pakistan or from another country, the friendly country will defend our independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

[Question] What I meant to ask, what I want to know is what are these helicopter gunships doing here?

[Answer] You know that the USSR is helping us in the economic, technical and cultural and other areas. Afghan military equipment is also made in the USSR. These helicopters you have seen are piloted by Afghans; the helicopters are Afghan helicopters. It is possible that there may be some helicopters which are used in Afghanistan for supplying the limited Soviet contingents. Now our armed forces are completely powerful, quantitatively and qualitatively.

[Question] What is your reaction to the claims in the West that the Afghan Armed Forces are almost nonexistent and all security operations are carried out by the Soviet troops?

[Answer] I must tell you that I have read and heard a great amount of slander and fabrications by the West and I think you too know why they embark upon these fabrications. The reason for this is that they want to find a pretext against the Soviet Union; to destroy peace and to fan cold war. This is all because the capitalist countries are facing crisis, economic crisis, inflation, unemployment and so forth. The Reagan administration wants a pretext for strengthening its military presence in the Gulf and on Diego Garcia and for establishing military bases in Egypt, Somalia and Oman. At this moment half a million troops of the U.S. Armed Forces, with nuclear equipment, are stationed outside this country, because they are always in search of a pretext against peace and the Soviet Union, which is why they engage upon slanders and lies against the Soviet Armed Forces and other kinds of propaganda. As I explained before, we are proud that we have the most powerful armed forces in the history of our country. If it were not for the mercenaries infiltrated from abroad, if it were not for the 80 or so military training centers in Pakistan training these mercenaries, and if these mercenaries were not sent to our country with U.S. weapons and money, I assure you that in 3 to 6 months you would be able to travel to any part of our country and the limited Soviet contingents too would return to their peace-loving country. But to do this, guarantees must be given by Pakistan to ensure the nonrepetition of interferences and aggression against Afghanistan from Pakistani soil.

[Question] What kind of guarantee do you want?

[Answer] You must have read the DRA Government announcement of 14 May 1980. On 24 August 1981 we made another announcement. Our policy is completely specific and clear in these announcements: We are ready to start political negotiations with Pakistan and Iran for the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. We have chosen a flexible and peace-seeking policy in this regard. But there are forces in the United States and in hegemonist and reactionary Pakistan who do not want the limited Soviet contingents to return to their country because they want a pretext for the anti-Soviet policy.

[Question] Why have more than 2 million people from your country left their homeland and gone to Pakistan?

[Answer] First, it is important to know who has counted these 2 1/2 million people. These figures are completely incorrect. I would like to remind you that throughout history 2 1/2 or even 3 million Afghan nomads have traveled through what was formerly India and is now Pakistan to Afghanistan. There are also families of the Pashtun tribes in which one brother lives on this side and another brother lives on that side, and they come and go freely.

[Question] Do you mean they are not truly refugees?

[Answer] We cannot tell whether they are refugees; a number of them are feudals and counterrevolutionary elements. Every revolution, and if you remember even the French Revolution and the bourgeois revolutions in the Western countries, has created refugees. The United States itself is made up of refugees who went there after revolutions in Europe. The counterrevolutionaries moved outside the country after losing interests in the April Revolution.

As you know, our revolution is a national-democratic, antifeudalist and anti-imperialist revolution; therefore, the feudals and the agents of imperialism have left the country. Nevertheless, we are ready to take up this matter at the negotiating table with Pakistan and find a logical and correct solution. Why do they not want this question to be resolved politically around the negotiation table? Why?

[Question] If it is true your army is powerful and the majority of the people support you, why are we not allowed to travel from the capital to the countryside?

[Answer] You know that in revolutionary conditions the least risk should not be undertaken. For reasons of caution it is necessary that you avoid going to the countryside, because it is possible that you may be confronted by a group of rebels and terrorists. This is a precautionary measure that has been adopted temporarily. In the past, journalists have paid visits to Jalalabad, Qandahar, Herat and other cities.

[Question] Could we visit your second and third largest cities, which are claimed in the West to be under the control of the mujahidin?

[Answer] The term mujahidin was created by the Reagan administration; they are not mujahidin but counterrevolutionary bands.

[Question] Are these two cities under your control?

[Answer] Completely. All Afghan cities are under the control of the government. It is a very important point -- and Western politicians also affirm this -- that during the 19th and 20th centuries until the victory of the April Revolution the central governments of Afghanistan did not have full control over all parts of the country, including the villages, mountains, valleys and homes of some tribes.

Now for the first time in the history of Afghanistan a powerful central government has been established whose local organs of power exist in all remote parts of the country.

You could find these points in the history books or ask the British politicians. They know this fact, because your forefathers fought three times against the people of Afghanistan and we know each other very well. As a result of Britain's colonialist policy dissension was created in Afghanistan and the central governments, under the control of the British Empire, were prevented from consolidating the power of the central government in all of the country. The old colonialism and neocolonialism have always prevented the central government from having control over all parts of the country. Only since the April Revolution, and in particular its new stage, and for the first time in the history of the country, has this process been forging ahead with great speed and have the local organs of state power been active in all parts of Afghan territory.

[Question] Do you mean you control all of Afghanistan?

[Answer] It seems you have not studied the history of revolutions. During the process of revolution such problems come up and this is (?natural). We are living under revolutionary conditions; there are a series of problems but our party, government and the National Fatherland Front (NFF) and our people are engaged in normalizing the situation in the country. It is imperialism, hegemonism and reaction who are creating problems. You may or may not agree with this point, but those are the hard facts.

[Question] You speak of foreign interference while the only armed foreign forces in your country are the Soviet troops.

[Answer] Dear friend, do you know that there is a treaty between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union which has been (?recorded) in the United Nations?

Moreover, Article 51 of the UN Charter states that every country has the right to ask its friends for help in the event of a threat to the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country. The United States, Beijing and Pakistani reaction not only interfered in the internal affairs of our country, but were planning to dismember Afghanistan. Such a threat existed and U.S. imperialism, the Western countries, Chinese hegemonism and regional reaction made us ask the Soviet Union for help. As I told you before, the foreign mercenaries who are embarking on intimidation in Afghanistan are trained by American, Chinese, and Pakistani instructors in about 80 training centers in Pakistan and are sent to Afghanistan.

[Question] But they are Afghans and they are your compatriots.

[Answer] You might know that members of one nation are on both sides, and you might have heard that even Chinese are sent with these mercenaries with Chinese and American weapons. Reagan has openly announced that he is supporting so-called Afghan mujahidin. Have you not heard this? Have you not heard that As-Sadat clearly said he was sending them weapons? Have you not heard everything that the Western politicians stated at the time of their visit to Pakistan near our borders? Why is the United States supplying nearly $3.5-billion worth of weapons and equipment? All this confronts the independence of our country with danger.

[Question] If you are really independent of the Soviet Union, what is the difference between your policy and that of the Soviet Union?

[Answer] We are an independent and nonaligned country. One difference in our policy is that we are nonaligned.

[Question] Are you truly independent of the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Soviet policy is completely based on a struggle against colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, hegemonism, racism and apartheid and we are also against these. We and the Soviet Union support peace, the freedom of peoples, national freedom, national liberation movement and social progress in the world.

[Question] Is there a stance where your policy differs from that of the Soviet Union?

[Answer] We are an independent and nonaligned country and the Soviet Union is a historical friend of our people. After the October Revolution the Soviet Union was the first to support our independence and to put every kind of economic, technical and other assistance at our disposal without any strings. Therefore, the existence of these circumstances was not planned by anybody but has deep roots in the history of our country which has taken the form of the policy of our (?party).

[Question] How much support do the people give your party? How many party members are there?

[Answer] Our party numbers more than 70,000 people.

[Question] That is a very small figure.

[Answer] Our party is the party of a new (?life), not like your parties where a person can be a member even if he comes from the gutter. We study every party member, because we are interested not in quantity but in quality. Thus our 70,000 persons are equivalent to several million people. You yourself know that 10 people who are well organized are better than 100, and this is a formula in our party's policy. We have the NFF which everyone over the age of 15 has the right to join.

In addition, a number of personalities, politicians and former ministers are members of this front. Trade unions, cooperatives, the democratic youth and women's organizations, the Council of Nationalities and Tribes, writers, artists and journalist unions, the Council of Ulema and spiritual leaders, the Consultative Economic Council and other social organizations exist in our country. Thus we should not talk about the number of party members. We have a complex system in the country composed of the NFF, social organizations and social personalities, all of who are under the leadership of the PDPA.

[Question] What do you expect the British Government and Margaret Thatcher to do about Afghanistan?

[Answer] We hope Margaret Thatcher and her government will be sensible and have normal relations with our country. Of course, this is what we want but I do not think the Conservative Party of Britain will take this step in accordance with the wishes of British workers.

OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR MOSCOW ANTINUCLEAR CONFERENCE

LD290716 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Kabul, 28 Mar (BAKHTAR) -- Dr Sayed Afghani, president of the Islamic Affairs Department of the DRA, left here today for the Soviet Union to participate in the preparatory conference of the world religions for the prevention of atomic and neutron weapons and for maintaining world peace.

The conference will be held in Moscow. Dr Sayed Afghani has been chosen a member of the presidium of the conference.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR CUBAN YOUTH CONGRESS

LD290718 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0247 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Kabul, 28 Mar (BAKHTAR)-- A delegation of the Central Committee of the Democratic Organisation of Afghanistan Youth [DYOA] headed by Burhan Ghiasi, first secretary of the Central Committee of the DYOA, left here for Havana at the invitation of the Organisation of Young Communists of Cuba.

The delegation will participate in the fourth congress of that organisation.

KABUL EXPELS THREE FRENCH TV JOURNALISTS

BK291443 Hong Kong AFP in English 1407 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] New Delhi, 29 Mar (AFP) -- The Afghan Government today expelled three journalists working for French television, and holding valid visas from Kabul after confiscating their entire stock of film, tapes, note books and unspecified equipment.

Frenchmen Jean-Louis Normand and David Cloude and Algerian journalist Alkama Mohammed, who all work for the French television (?station) channel three arrived here by an Afghan Ariana plane after (?being) forcibly put on the aircraft by security men at Kabul International Airport.

The three, who were issued one month visas by the Afghan Embassy in Paris, were given Information Ministry press cards after landing in Kabul.

They visited various places in Afghanistan and shot 8,800 metres (yards) of film. Their visas were valid till 10th of April.

The temporary Afghan press cards they held called on the authorities and security personnel to give "every possible assistance" to the holders.

"We do not know why suddenly they hardened towards us and told us to get out of Afghanistan after confiscating our film", Mr Normand said.

The journalists were told yesterday that they were unwanted in Afghanistan and would be deported today. "We did not believe it at first. Officials came to our hotel room yesterday and took our passports", he said. They were taken to the airport today and put on the plane.

"We argued with them and tried to explain things. In the process the plane got delayed by one and half hours, but they would not budge from their stand and put the three of us by force in the plane", Mr Normand said.

Two French Embassy staff in Kabul tried in vain to help them, he said.

They were given their passports at the airport today.

While touring Afghanistan, they were accompanied by an Afghan journalist working for a party paper.

Mr Normand refused to be specific about which places they had visited in Afghanistan pleading that he would release the details after talking with his superiors in Paris. He and his two colleagues all work for the "New Friday" programme on channel three of the French television.

DAILY RAPS U.S. CLAIMS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE

BK281309 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 13 Mar 82 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Unbridled Propaganda Campaign"]

[Text] The unbridled and irresponsible propaganda campaign unleashed by imperialist circles, particularly the imperialism of the USA, the CIA and the Pentagon and their regional lackeys against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan can not deceive anyone.

One of their most ridiculous lies and slanders is that the DRA Armed Forces and the Soviet limited military contingents have allegedly used chemical weapons against the counterrevolutionaries in Afghanistan.

Recently, Stoessel, U.S. undersecretary of state, irresponsibly repeated this unfounded allegation before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee without giving the least evidence and document for their lies.

We have several times totally and emphatically refuted the unfounded and false accusations.

This hue and cry and groundless slanders have gone up to the extent that even the NATO allies of the United States and the Western diplomatic sources have inevitably refuted the empty allegations concocted by Reagan and his accomplices, the CIA and the Pentagon.

According to the international news media reports, the Western diplomats in Pakistan say that there is no proof whatsoever for these claims of the White House and that they are completely unaware of it. On the other hand, the International Red Cross [IRC] in Peshawar has flatly rejected these artificial claims. A source of the IRC said that there is no data whatsoever on the use of chemical weapons against the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

The United States very much hoped that by presenting a few forged and artificial data to the UN mission which was in Pakistan investigating the matter, she could probably provide some base for her claim. But the UN mission, on its return to New York announced that the data provided did not prove anything.

This announcement poured such cold water on the fire of imperialists' propaganda that led the BBC to mention with regret in its news service that the UN mission returned emptyhanded from Pakistan in this connection and could not find any source or proof with regard to the use of chemical weapons against the counterrevolutionaries.

But the imperialist propagandists still repeat these empty claims although they themselves do not believe them.

We say to Mr. Reagan and his co-propagandists that mere words can not deceive anybody. In fact, the nature of your lies is so much exposed that no one would even listen to you. On the other hand, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has ample and undeniable proofs available about the crimes of the United States of America and the chemical weapons made in the USA which are placed at the disposal of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries by the CIA to commit the most horrifying and inhuman crimes against the people of Afghanistan.

MERCENARY BANDS 'EXTERMINATED' OR CAPTURED

LD280554 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0423 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Kabul, 27 Mar (BAKHTAR) -- A number of mercenary bands who disrupted the peaceful life of the people in the regions of Farah, Baghlan and Fariab Provinces by resorting to terror and murder were exterminated by the security forces and revolution defence groups. And a number of them were captured.

60 of these criminals along with their ringleaders were crushed in the villages of Chatakal and Karez-Sher Khan in Shebergan Province, another 15 in the village of Sheikh Jalal in Baghlan Province.

Also, a number of armed robbers, who indulged in arson and plunder on the highway between Andkhoy District and Qaram Hol Sub-District were annihilated and their ringleader, Hakeem Pahlawan, was captured.

A quantity of arms and ammunitions and a motorcycle were seized from them.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY BANDITS' CLASH IN PAKISTAN

LD290722 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Kabul, 28 Mar (BAKHTAR) -- Another clash has taken place among the counter-revolutionary bandits stationed in Pakistan. The clash took place on March 25 in a camp of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries in Achina near Peshawar.

The cause of the clash was a dispute about the distribution and sharing of the money and goods received from imperialist institutions. As a result of a clash between two bandit groups, two persons named Alef Khan and Dilawar Khan were killed and three others, Suleiman, Mastan and Sahar Gul were injured.

The elders of Achina and Pushta Khari villages of Peshawar have demanded the dismantling of the camps of these criminals as their activities are constituting a great threat to the security of the region.

FORMER AFGHAN AMBASSADOR DEFECTS, JOINS REBELS

BK301216 Hong Kong AFP in English 1018 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] New Delhi, 30 Mar (AFP) -- A former Afghan ambassador who served his country for about three decades said today that 40 to 45 percent of senior officials of President Babrak Karmal's Soviet-backed government in Kabul were sympathetic to the Moslem resistance.

Abdul Rahman Pazhwak, who was Afghan ambassador to the United Nations from 1958 to 1976, and had headed the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in 1962, fled to India from Kabul last Wednesday, ostensibly for medical treatment here.

He announced at a press conference his decision to join the resistance.

Mr. Pazhwak, 63, who left behind his wife and four grown-up sons in Kabul, spoke of mounting resistance in Afghanistan, saying the uneasy calm hanging over Kabul was deceptive.

"The regime there rules only in the day time, that too only in the cities. After dark it is the resistance which rules," he said, while claiming to be in constant touch with Moslem insurgents in Afghanistan.

Mr. Pazhwak, who started his career as a journalist, was recalled from London where he had been posted as ambassador soon after Nur Mohammad Taraki assumed power after the April 1978 first pro-communist coup.

He was kept under house arrest for one and half years and was released under the general amnesty declared by Mr. Karmal when the latter became president in December 1979.

He said the present government had made several efforts to win him over, but added that he had ignored the offers.

He was even invited to attend the National Fatherland Front meeting in Kabul held in June last year, but was prevented from addressing the gathering after he told Mr. Karmal the gist of his proposed speech, which was not to the liking of the president.

He said he was suffering from acute ulcers and had been bedridden for several months.

"I decided to get out of the country the day I was able to walk and here I am," he noted.

He said he would work to promote unity among the various resistance groups in Pakistan and India and would apply for refugee status at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) office here as soon as his three-month Indian visa expires.

"I intend to go to Pakistan and convince the resistance leaders that their unity was of utmost importance to the people inside," he said.

Commenting on the feelings of Mr. Karmal, his ministers and senior government officials who sided with the regime, he said they had initially thought they were heros, but now thought they were the victims.

He said he could safely vouch that 40 to 45 percent of the senior officials in the administration were against the regime and were sympathetic to the resistance cause. He drew the inference after talking with several officials.

He gave a detailed analysis on the present military situation in Afghanistan, the strength of the resistance and the status of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

He said that instead of increasing its membership, the party had lost about 30,000 members since the Soviet armed intervention there. He put the party's present strength at 30,000.

He said he had access to first-hand information on resistance activities and could confirm they were growing. He however admitted that Moslem rebels had suffered defeats in recent battles against Soviet-bolstered government forces in Qandahar and Panjshir Valley.

Giving an example of rebel strength and activities, he said resistance fighters assassinated 18 delegates to the Mar 14-15 PDPA conference in Kabul.

Of the 18 people killed, three were professors at Kabul University, and two were the president and chief of administration of the university.

Mr. Pazhwak said the conference had been a failure, with several delegates, specially those belonging to the PDPA's Khalq faction opposed to Mr. Karmal's Parcham faction, not allowed to speak. They included Interior Minister Seyyed Mohammad Golabzoi, he said.

He added that the current rulers in Kabul were completely isolated from the people and estimated the strength of the ministers, officials and partymen who are trusted by the Soviets at only 1,000.

He stressed that the Kabul leadership was absolutely dependent on the Soviet Union and even elementary decisions were taken by Soviet advisers.

The Soviets are building permanent military bases everywhere in Afghanistan and educational, administrative and political structures are being moulded in the Soviet pattern, he noted, adding that Soviet women teachers had arrived to take charge of nursery and junior schools [words indistinct]. To a visitor, Kabul looks normal, he indicated, but shopkeepers keep their shops open out of fear, children are sent to school as parents fear threats or other harassments.

He expressed fear that his press conference today may put his family in Kabul in trouble. "However, when I left, I knew the present regime and the Soviets would not let them live in peace like human beings, but I have a greater cause to attend to," he added.

REBEL COMMANDER CLAIMS 35,000 RUSSIANS KILLED

GF291241 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Mar 82 p 5

[From our staff correspondent]

[Text] Hyderabad, March 27 -- Over 35,000 Russian soldiers, including army commanders and military advisers to the Babrak Karmal government, have been killed in Afghanistan so far. Disclosing that at jihad conference organised [by] Hezb-e Eslami, Hyderabad, here on Saturday, commander Rashid Mujahid, who is commanding mujahidin of Paktia Province, said that over 120 jet planes, gunships and helicopters and 4,500 tanks and armoured vehicles of the enemy had also been destroyed by freedom fighters in Afghanistan so far.

Three other commanders, namely Com. Nasim, Qazi Zafar and Shadi Khan, and other mujahidin also addressed the conference. They said that seven organisations of mujahidin had united to fight against the aggressors and expressed the hope that by unity of purpose the day was not far off when the freedom-fighters would achieve their cherished goal and throw out the aggressors from Afghanistan. Earlier, the amir of Hezb-e Eslami, Hyderabad, Lotfollah Sa'ad, welcomed the representatives of the mujahidin.

ERSHAD CHAIRS FIRST ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

BK301239 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] The first meeting of the Council of Advisers was held at the old Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan [Parliament House] today with Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad in the chair.

The meeting, which lasted for about 3 and 1/2 hours, reviewed the situation of the country as a whole and discussed major national issues with particular reference to food and energy on which the two respective advisers apprised the council of the present position. The council was also informed that the Bangladesh Aid Group meeting will be held in Paris on the 20th of next month as scheduled.

The council expressed satisfaction at the manner in which the various problems of the country are being tackled in the best national interest.

ERSHAD: MARTIAL LAW MAY LAST 2 YEARS

BK280755 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh Lieutenant General Ershad says the martial law in the country may continue for about 2 years. He was speaking to foreign newsmen at Dacca at his first news conference since Wednesday's coup.

All-India Radio Dacca correspondent says General Ershad indicated that the ban on political activities will last for 6 months. However, no decision has been taken on the matter so far.

General Ershad said he hoped to restore democracy but the people will decide about the system of the government they want if necessary by a referendum.

Justifying the imposition of martial law, he said the armed forces have to save the country from chaos. The general also said trials of persons facing corruption charges would begin very soon.

NEAR-FAMINE PREDICTED IF FOOD SHORTAGE UNCHECKED

BK301028 Hong Kong AFP in English 0228 GMT 30 Mar 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, 30 Mar (AFP) -- The food shortage in Bangladesh, which could cause near-famine conditions if not soon checked, is a major problem for the country's new military rulers who seized power in a swift and bloodless coup last Wednesday, area analysts said here last night.

The shortage has become so serious that New Delhi diverted 103,000 tons of U.S. wheat on its way to India to Bangladesh three weeks ago at the urging of the United Nations-sponsored World Food Program.

Rice is the country's staple food, and the promise to sell one seer (slightly less than a kilogram or 2.2 pounds) of rice at one taka (about five cents) has so far gone unfulfilled in the country's tortuous political course of four government changes since its birth in 1971 after an 11-month-long liberation war.

Like his predecessors, the new ruler, Army Chief Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, 52, announced that rice prices would be brought down.

Reports from Dacca said the price of rice had dropped from an unprecedented nine taka (45 cents) a seer in mid-March to six or seven taka (30 to 35 cents). But analysts believe the drop was more from fear than economics.

Before tackling prices, however, the analysts see Gen. Ershad's immediate problem as increasing grain availability.

Food grain production in Bangladesh has increased by about 30 percent over the past four years, but annual production is still about seven to eight percent short of minimum calory requirements, according to the analysts.

In addition, annual yield fluctuations and the public distribution system -- which allegedly benefits the organized and critical sectors of society -- plays havoc with the grain stocks.

According to public distribution priorities, grain first goes to the 77,000-member armed forces, police, civil servants, and urban dwellers. Rural residents -- primarily farmers who do not produce enough for self-consumption and landless laborers -- are next.

Of the country's 92.8 million people, 77.5 percent are in agriculture and fishing.

Rice production is expected to hit 13 million tons in 1981-82 against about 14 million tons in 1980-81. To this must be added one million tons of wheat Bangladesh produces annually against 50,000 tons a decade ago.

Year after year, Bangladesh has been importing about two million tons of grain, mostly under aid and grants that represented about 25 percent of the annual budget. This support was, however, reduced to a third by former President Ziaur Rahman, who was assassinated last May.

This aid was further cut in June and July last year. In all, Bangladesh was granted one million tons of wheat aid for 1981-82, including 300,000 tons under the World Food Program.

In recent months, however, official stocks dwindled to a precarious low -- whether from mismanaged procurement and distribution or irregular shipments of promised food grains from abroad.

On March 1, government stocks were estimated at only 170,000 tons of wheat. The 100,000-ton capacity silos at Chittagong Port city held barely 5,000 tons, the analysts said.

They could not give a firm figure for total official food grain stocks, but estimated that minimum stocks were around 750,000 tons.

They also said that uneven distribution of stocks around the country -- with many areas far below requirements -- could trigger a spurt in grain prices and panic buying, which could further complicate the situation.

What course the food situation will take depends largely on harvests now and in September and October, which, if they give expected yields of 2.5 million tons and 3.3 million tons respectively, could give the nation a reprieve.

VELAYATI CHIDES SAUDIS IN PREDEPARTURE STATEMENT

GF301806 Tehran International Service in Urdu 1415 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Velayati, before leaving for Pakistan, told our correspondent he will stress the interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran in expanding relations with Pakistan and expressed the hope that his upcoming talks with Pakistani officials will prove useful.

Commenting on the recent statement by the interior minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the Saudi Government will react to any kind of Iranian threat to the Persian Gulf countries, the Iranian foreign minister said the statement of the Saudi interior minister reflects the desire and [word indistinct] of the big powers, especially the United States, to spread tension in this area.

Mr Velayati further said the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, since its founding, has been striving for improvement of (?conditions in the Persian Gulf) and has supported the cause of Palestine. [Words indistinct] consider it to be no more than noise and have expressed no concern about it.

Further Details

LD301916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] In connection with the remarks made by Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi interior minister, that Iran has threatened the countries of the region and that it is planning so-called conspiracies against these countries, the minister of foreign affairs said:

Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz has tried to portray Iran as confronting Arab countries. This claim is nothing new. The Arab people are familiar with these kinds of remarks and pay no attention to them. They know that since its establishment, the Islamic Republic has exerted all its efforts to improve its relations with the Arabs and that it has supported the Palestinian aspirations even more than Arab countries.

The minister of foreign affairs added: If he is really serious about his claims concerning his support for the Arabs and if he is seeking their interests, he should save the Muslim Arabs on the West Bank who are under the lashes of the Zionist regime and who are enduring the greatest pressure.

Mr Velayati added: The prince does nothing else but follow the wish of America, which is to create tension in the Persian Gulf region.

Departs for Pakistan

LD301134 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 30 Mar (IRNA) -- Heading a high-ranking political and economic mission, Foreign Minister Velayati left Tehran this morning for an official four-day state visit to Pakistan. In this trip, at the invitation of the Pakistani foreign minister, Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Economic and International Affairs Mr Kazempur Ardabili, Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Consulate and Cultural Affairs Mr Mansuri, Undersecretary for the Export and Commerce Ministry Mr 'Ali Naghi Khamushi and some other Foreign Ministry and Roads and Transportation officials are accompanying Dr Velayati. The Pakistani ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran has also left with the delegation.

In addition to meeting and conferring with the Pakistani president and foreign minister, Dr Velayati will also speak to some other Pakistani ministers. Other members of the mission will also hold talks with their counterparts.

MINISTRY URGES ISLAMIC UNITY AGAINST ZIONISM

LD261220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Statement issued on 26 March by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. What is being done today on the West Bank of the Jordan River to the oppressed inhabitants of that region, although a clear sign of the tyrannical policies of the Zionist regime in the occupied territory and of its desire to annex greater parts of these territories, also demonstrates the further strengthening of the determination of the wronged Palestinian nation to continue its struggle to get rid of Zionist domination and to liberate Jerusalem. The continuation and intensification of the struggles of the deprived people of the occupied territories against greed of the regime occupying Jerusalem and against its foster father, America, shows that world arrogance which is being confronted with the tumultuous wave of the Islamic struggles in the region and is forced to implement harsh, oppressive and usurping policies is reaching the end of its life.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing its readiness to extend unstinting support for the struggles of the Muslim and deprived inhabitants of the West Bank, of the Golan Heights and of other occupied territories, condemns the policies of the Zionist regime. By emphasizing that the issue of Palestine is an issue facing all the Muslims throughout the world, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic once again announces that the liberation of noble Jerusalem and other Islamic lands can be achieved only through the unity of all the Muslims of the world around the axis of Islam and through the mobilization of all their material and spiritual resources against Israel and America.

KHAMENE'I COMMENTS ON REFUGEES, HUMAN RIGHTS

GF310415 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Mar 82 pp 1, 11

[Text] Brother Habibollah Shafiq, acting director of the War-Stricken Foundation, and officials of the foundation from across the country met President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

During the meeting Mr Shafiq first gave a report on the activities and services of the organization to the president.

Mr Khamene'i then followed with a speech in which he pointed out the adverse results of the war, such as the destruction and the creation of refugees, and said: It has been only due to the miracle of our revolution and God's mercy that we have been able to solve much of this problem in such a short time. He added: This job can only be done in the hands of such sacrificing, faithful and active human beings as you. Your efforts are invaluable and no one but the Almighty can thank you for it. This is since you not only supply material services but also morale and spiritual support.

He pointed out that the enemy, in its policy of merciless murder of innocent people, intended to deal a blow against the Islamic Republic by creating refugees at the same time as it attacked the borders of our country. However, the activities of the organization neutralized this great trick by the enemy, who is supported by international oppression. He added: If the Iraqi Government had any refugees from the cities within our artillery range it would have fallen by now since it had neither enough manpower nor sufficient planning to combat a refugee problem.

The president, referring to the slogans calling for bombing Iraqi population centers, said: Since the Islamic Republic adheres to humane and moral principles it has never done this and that is the difference between a government which uses Godly principles and one that is based on brute force.

While stressing that Iran is not at war with the Iraqi people, he said: If Iraqi soldiers put down their weapons we would have no quarrel with them and would invite them to come and have a better life in Iran. We deal with those who resist to the last bullet according to Islamic principles, which advocate leniency.

The president stressed the point that Iran is never willing to have the Iraqi people suffer or be scared and said: In forcing the fall of the rulers of Baghdad we will never use any unjustified means to murder the Iraqi people.

The head of the Supreme Defense Council, mentioning the selfless donations of the people and their presence on the scene, said: Human rights exist within such assistance, and the defense of human rights, honor and dignity is the job of the War-Stricken Foundation and is not a job for the black-hearted babblers who wish to cover up the criminal acts of the great criminals in the name of defense of human rights.

International organizations have not once condemned the bombing and murder of our defenseless people. However, when a number of hard-hearted terrorists who burn buses, attack people with guns and hold armed demonstrations and pro-American and pro-Israeli capitalists are tried and sentenced in courts, all international loudspeakers take up the shouts of human rights in unison. With such a record, do they expect our people to have any faith in the fairness of such organizations for the so-called defense of human rights?

Mr Khamene'i said: Through such actions these organizations make us more adherent to our revolution and further justify our slogan "Death to the United States." Today, however, in spite of all the propaganda of our enemies, the world is clearly learning about the Islamic revolution and the Iranian nation. Nowadays the hearts of the people of the world beat [faster] when they hear the name of our imam. They recognize Iran in connection with the Islamic revolution and the imam.

At the end, the head of the Supreme Defense Council praised the activities of the revolutionary and government obligations, especially the army, and stressed the need for more activity by the officials of the War-Stricken Foundation to strengthen the morale of the brother and sister refugees and to see to their financial needs and job requirements. He also discussed the need for using the people in the reconstruction of the war regions.

JOINT STAFF, GUARDS STATEMENT ON SUCCESSES

LD301256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Communique issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The enemy-crushing chants of "God is great" by the defenders of monotheism echo in the blood-soaked fields and mountains of the Islamic homeland and the fighters against blasphemy of the army of Islam, inspired by their faith in God, are walking a path which will only end in salvation. Today is the day of victory for God's soldiers over the army of darkness and deviation. The combatants of the army of Islam continue to attack the aggressors of the puppet regime of Iraq and are going to clean the land of the Islamic revolution of the presence of the invading enemy.

Champion and Muslim nation of Iran: The latest available information on the victorious operations named "Fath al-Mubin" [True Victory] are brought to your attention:

1. Smashing the enemy forces, that is, the Iraqi IV Corps, including three divisions comprising the 10th Armored Division, made up of the 42d Armored Brigade, the 24th Mechanized Brigade, the 17th Armored Brigade and the 60th Infantry Brigade; and the 1st Mechanized Division, including the 1st Mechanized Brigade, the 27th Mechanized Brigade, 34th Armored Brigade and the 51st Armored Brigade.

It ought to be mentioned that the enemy 1st Mechanized Division was surrounded at Abu Sabli Khah by the Islamic forces and was completely smashed and annihilated.

The brigades operating under the 1st and the 10th Divisions include the 99th Infantry Brigade, the 93d Infantry Brigade, the 96th Infantry Brigade, the 426th Infantry Brigade, the 505th Infantry Brigade, the 109th Infantry Brigade, the 423d Infantry Brigade and the 421st Brigade. Several thousand of the misguided members of the criminal Iraqi Ba'thist Party going under the so-called name of "popular forces" were killed or wounded.

In the operations destroying enemy [word indistinct] about 25,000 of the invading forces were killed or wounded. About 15,000 misguided Saddamists who were captured by Islam's combatants have been counted so far.

In the victorious Fath al-Mubin operations, about 360 enemy armored personnel carriers and a large number of tanks, personnel carriers and heavy and light vehicles and a large amount of ammunition were captured by the combatants of Islam, of which more than 150 tanks, 170 personnel carriers and about 500 vehicles have been counted and collected and the rest of the equipment captured is being counted now.

Several SAM-6's, a number of 6-metre ground-to-ground missiles and more than 165 pieces of artillery, including 182-mm, 130-mm and 152-mm weapons, are among those captured.

2. Liberation of the important strategic heights to the northwest of Khuzestan called Abu Sabli Khah, known as [names indistinct] and the 202d Heights.

3. Liberation of the towns of Dezful, Andimeshk, Shush, the Vahdati Fourth Airbase, the Andimeshk-Ahvaz highway and hundreds of villages from long-range enemy fire and ground-to-ground missiles.

4. Capturing the Abu Qarib oil wells at [name indistinct] Heights, being one of the biggest oilfields in Khuzestan.

5. Liberation of three gendarmerie posts in Ilam and Khuzestan Provinces called the 'Eyn Khosh, (Duflak) and Jebbe-e Naderi posts.

6. Liberation of the reserve airport at Dehloran.

7. Liberation of Dezful, Dasht-e 'Abbas and 'Eyn Khosh and also the Dasht-e 'Abbas, Dasht-e (Kalaleh) regions and [name indistinct] fields which are among the most important agricultural lands to the north of Khuzestan.

With the liberation of the aforementioned regions, due to the victorious operations, about 2,000 sq km of our Islamic homeland were recaptured from the aggressive enemy and brought under the control of Islamic forces.

8. The number and names of all the commanders and high-ranking Iraqi officers who were captured by the combatants of Islam during the victorious operations will be announced in the next communique.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 840

LD301810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Communique 840 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots: The brave warriors of Islam and the self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue their battle on all fronts with very high morale and hopes for gaining victory. This is particularly true on the fronts west of Dezful and Shush, where our combatants are more powerful and have more fervor than they did on the first day of the great Fath operations. They are chasing the renmants of the disintegrating enemy, who are being forced to retreat toward their own borders. The combatants of Islam are determined to maintain their readiness until the aggressive enemy is annihilated and destroyed on all fronts of the imposed war. With the succour of Almighty God, our combatants are determined not to rest until they have achieved the final victory.

Last night, 705 more prisoners who were captured from the invading Iraqi Armed Forces during the powerful forces of Islam's historic second Karbala' Fath operation were transferred to Tehran. A total of 12,720 prisoners have been transferred to Tehran since the start of the successful Fath operations.

The victorious heroes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran are still maintaining air superiority in the operational sectors west of Dezful and are ready to repel any last ditch air raid effort the enemy might make in these sectors. For example, at 1718 today the fast-flying pilots of the air force downed another violating plane belonging to the invading Iraqi Armed Forces 40 km west of Dezful. A total of 22 Iraqi planes have been downed since 21 March.

On the western fronts the brave warriors of the ground forces opened artillery fire on the Saddamists' positions. On the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar and Salehabad fronts, our combatants' artillery fire killed or wounded a large number of misled Iraqi troops. One tank, one heavy-mortar launcher, and several light- and heavy-weapons emplacements belonging to the enemy were destroyed and the servicemen operating the equipment were killed.

On the Marivan front, the ground forces' mortar fire set on fire and destroyed three trenches, some foxholes and several tents belonging to the Iraqi troops. Several Iraqi servicemen were either killed or wounded.

On the Kan-e Sakht front, gendarmerie combatants opened mortar fire on enemy positions and destroyed five trenches, some foxholes and observation posts, one truck and one machine-gun belonging to the Saddamists. On the Nowsud and Sheykhan fronts, our gendarmerie forces returned and silenced the enemy's fire.

Exchange of fire continued on the Abadan fronts between our powerful forces and the feeble enemy. Thanks to our gendarmerie combatants' fire, 10 Iraqi troops were killed and several of their trenches and foxholes were destroyed.

In addition, some of the Saddamists' positions in Al-Faw were set on fire. The brave warriors of the navy destroyed two observation posts, several light- and heavy-weapons emplacements and one boat belonging to the Saddamist forces.

Since the invading enemy has not learned its lesson from the epicmaking operations of the second Karbala' Fath operations, it continues to wage criminal and savage operations by bringing Abadan under its long-range artillery fire. Some sections of Abadan were damaged yesterday.

IRAQI MUSLIM TROOPS URGED TO SURRENDER

LD251754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 82

["Message" to the Iraqi Muslim Armed Forces from the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We beseech God to assist us. Oh you believers! "Join the forces of Islam and do not obey Satan and his desires, because Satan is your enemy." [Koranic quotation]

Peace and glory be upon those who choose the path of truth. Peace and glory to those who surrender to truth because they recognize it. The glory of God upon those who found the path of righteousness and followed it. And God's curse upon those who followed the path of tyranny and aggression and stood against the followers of God's path.

Muslim Armed Forces of Iraq, Muslim soldiers of Iraq: This message is from the warriors of Islam to you who are caught in the claws of tyranny and despotism of the puppet dictator regime of Saddam, and to you who are treated as prisoners by the mercenary and Ba'thist officers of Iraq, to you, whose blood is spilled in vain to serve the interests of the American Saddam and his master.

Muslim soldiers of Iraq, Muslim NCO's of Iraq and Muslim officers of Iraq: You should know that the army of Islam gains its power from God and the combatants of Islam are fighting for God. You are fighting for Satan. You should know that fighting against God and the followers of His path can have no other consequence but annihilation and the fire of hell.

Muslim soldiers of Iraq: A new epic was created today when 435 Muslim militarymen of Iraq voluntarily surrendered to the forces of Islam in the 'Eyn Khosh sector. In the Pol-e Rafa'iyeh sector, another large group of the Iraqi Muslim forces joined the combatants of Islam and freed themselves from the bondage of the blasphemous Saddam and the claws of his tyranny and despotism. They asked themselves for what purpose and for whose sake they are fighting and for whose desires they are spilling their own blood?

Muslim soldiers of Iraq: You too should think for yourselves and understand that the blasphemous Saddam has, through deceit and compulsion, forced the Muslim Armed Forces of Iraq to wage this obvious aggression against the territory of the Islamic homeland of Iran. Therefore, return to the embrace of the forces of Islam and start a new life before it is too late.

Right now, the forces of Islam are fully prepared to welcome you if you decide to join them. The moment you announce your readiness to join the forces of Islam by hoisting a white flag or by sending a representative, we will embrace you and you will join the ranks of our brothers. May you be successful in joining the forces of God to become part of the army of Islam.

We are assisted by God and our victory is near.

TWO IRAQI MIG'S, ONE HELICOPTER SHOT DOWN

LD251718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] According to reports received from the fronts of the war between Islam and blasphemy, three tank companies of the aggressive enemy on the north of Hill No 120 were completely set on fire and destroyed yesterday, thanks to the bold and enemy-crushing operations of the brave combatants of Islam.

This morning two MiG's of the aggressive Iraqi Army in the areas of Reqabiyeh and 'Eyn Khosh and also one helicopter of the Saddamists in the same area were hit and downed by the accurate fire of the vigilant air defense of the army of Islam.

Also this morning, in addition to 435 Muslim Iraqi military men joining the army of Islam, another large number of them who realized the dirty nature of the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist regime, left their trenches and with enthusiasm reached the forces of Islam and joined the army of truth.

THREE IRAQI AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN ON SHUSH FRONT

LD291808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] According to an IRNA report from the Shush and Reqabiyeh fronts, three aircraft of the mercenary Saddamist army on a bombing mission against the city of Hamidiyeh were shot down by one of our fighter aircraft during a dogfight.

One of the enemy aircraft bombed a village near Ahvaz before being shot down. A girl was martyred and another person was injured.

ENERGY MINISTER VISITS RECAPTURED AREAS

LD302030 Tehran IRNA in English 1953 GMT 30 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 30 Mar (IRNA) -- Minister of Energy Ghafuri-Fard in an interview with IRNA today said that as soon as the occupied areas are cleared of Iraqi Ba'thist forces, measures would be taken to provide them with water and electricity services. In a week's time Shush will be provided with water and power, added Ghafuri-Fard, who has recently visited west of Shush in the northwest of Khuzestan. He further told IRNA that the 33 kilovolt power network of the bases had suffered great damage but with the efforts of the staff of the ministry it would become ready for utilisation.

Speaking about his observations during his visit to the battle-fields, Ghafuri-Fard said that besides the ordinary Iraqi captives he talked with a number of high-ranking Iraqi officers including a general who said that situation with the Iraqi military force was bad and that Saddam was no longer able to rule.

The Iraqi captive also said that the Iraqi officers were surrendering easily and did not have the morale to fight. The minister of energy further added that most of the Iraqi captives were saying that they were made to go to the warfronts by force and in case of refusal the Iraqi authorities threatened to arrest their families.

Ghafuri-Fard continued that among the Iraqi POWs there were a number of Sudanese, Moroccan, Tunisian and Lebanese nationalities, most of whom were students or teachers who were said their work permits would be taken away from them and could not continue to work in Iraq if they refused to go to the warfronts.

Referring to the Neka power station, Mazandaran Province, the minister of energy said that there were disputes with foreign contractors over the station because Iran has said that it will take the station over when its shortcomings are eliminated. The contractor has been told that the people of Iran were willing to use candles and to do without a defective power station.

He said that the station today costs about 150 billion rials, one unit of which has been completed and will not be taken over until all its problems have been removed, he said.

SUCCESSES REGISTERED AGAINST KURDISH REBELS

LD211732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The Central News Unit, quoting the Public Relations Office of the Central Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, reports that during the early hours of yesterday the combatants of Islam, including the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, personnel of the gendarmerie, the police and the Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, purged the counterrevolutionaries from the villages of Bashmagh, Eyman Qal'eh and Qal'eh Joqeh, situated 50 km in the Saqqez-Divvan-Darreh axis. During these operations at least eight of the armed insurgents were killed and eight firearms of assorted brands were seized by the defenders of Islam. These operations were successfully ended after 12 hours. The forces of Islam suffered no losses or casualties.

Also, during an engagement in (Duveyzeh) village between the revolution guards brothers and the Muslim Kurdish peshmerga on the one hand and armed counterrevolutionaries on the other, five counterrevolutionaries were killed and another three were arrested. According to the same report, a group of Islamic revolution defenders made seven arrests in the area around Bukan during an armed clash with insurgents.

ETTELA'AT: 15 REBELS KILLED, 80 WOUNDED

NC281545 Paris AFP in English 1534 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 28 Mar (AFP) -- A total of 15 opposition "counter-revolutionaries" were killed and 80 wounded in recent clashes with Iranian troops in Western Azarbayjan Province, near the town of Piranshah, the Iranian daily ETTELA'AT reported today.

Iranian Army spokesmen in the province said the rebels had attacked an army base, killing nine soldiers and wounding 11.

ETTELA'AT did not report when the incident took place.

VISITS TO SHARI'ATMADARI REPORTEDLY BARRED

NC241414 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The regime's revolution guards prevented new year visits to Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari in Qom. A Voice of Iran correspondent has reported that on Monday, 22 March, the regime's revolution guards prevented a group of Azarbayjanis from entering the residence of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari in Qom. This group had come to Qom from Tabriz, Sarab and Ardabil to pay a new year visit to Mr Shari'atmadari. Our correspondent's report stated that only a group of students and Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's relatives were allowed to visit his residence.

ARREST OF FEDA'IYAN-E KHALQ OFFICIALS REPORTED

NC201526 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] The murderous Revolution Guards Corps has issued a statement (?listing the names and ranks) of members of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq minority organization who were caught by security forces in two stages. The Feda'iyan-e Khalq majority and the Tudeh Party, which closely cooperate with the Revolution Guards Corps in identifying the anti-Khomeyni groups, cooperated with the mullahs in this case, too. The Feda'iyan majority was especially directly involved in the operations.

Siamak 'Asadian, head of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq minority organization's military section, (Mohsen Shareji), in charge of the organization's (?provisional) branches, and Mansur Eskandari, in charge of the Tehran committee, were among those arrested.

LEFTIST WEEKLY KARGAR REPORTEDLY BANNED

NC271840 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 27 Mar (AFP) -- The leftist weekly KARGAR, which recently published accounts of inmate abuse and secret executions in Tehran's Evin Prison, has been banned by Iranian authorities, the newspaper ETTELA'AT reported today.

Citing a statement from the Islamic revolutionary prosecutor's office, ETTELA'AT said KARGAR was banned on March 14 "for having violated the honor of the Islamic Republic and having insulted and defamed judiciary authorities, as well as for having published lies."

Two weeks ago, KARGAR had published an account by a political oppositionist who reported mistreatment and unannounced executions after being detained there for 82 days.

CLANDESTINE REPORTS ON WORKERS STRIKES, PURGES

GF291856 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] According to a Free Voice of Iran report a wave of protests has arisen in factories. The economic condition of Iran, especially the state of the industries, is becoming more critical and dangerous each day.

While the workers of quite a few factories have gone on strike, the prime minister of Khomeyni's regime, Musavi, is trying to find ways and means to placate the workers with false promises, while simultaneously trying to intimidate and threaten them. Musavi said in his latest speech that the economic situation and particularly the condition of the industries of the Islamic Republic can only be remedied if all the workers become dedicated to Islamic ideology. In this way, Musavi drew the attention of the workers to the weakening economic situation, particularly to the crisis of Iran's industries and attributed the loss incurred by factories and the decrease in production to their lack of dedication to ideology. According to the administrative circles of the Khomeyni regime, only that person who obeys the orders of the government without question and makes no economic or financial demands is dedicated.

Last year, when the drivers of the Bus Drivers Association and the workers of the Iran National Company went on strike demanding payment of their salaries, the regime accused them of not being dedicated. In fact, the charge of not being ideological or dedicated can be leveled against any worker or employee who demands his remuneration.

Our correspondent reports from Tehran that following the execution of four workers of Pars Electric Company who were handed over to the firing squads for going on strike, a wave of protest and indignation engulfed the groups and organizations of workers in Iran. The regime has embarked on widespread purges in these organizations. Our correspondent adds: The regime's agents have suspended a large number of workers and have sent them to prison.

NVOI COMPLAINS WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED

TA220921 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 20 March in a commentary entitled "Put an End to Instances of Violation of Women's Rights," says that nearly 2 months have passed since the preagenda speech by Mrs Maryam Behruzi, deputy of the Islamic Majlis, concerning instances of violation of women's rights.

However, discussion about these remarks is still taking place in many circles, particularly in women's circles of our homeland. What should necessarily be pointed out, the commentary says, is that if an end is not put to the inequality between the rights of men and women and to inhuman attitudes toward women and to other instances that violate the indisputable rights of our mothers and sisters, this will leave the greatest stain on our homeland's popular and anti-imperialist revolution. Many of the special civil courts essentially do not maintain any rights for women. Contrary to the Constitution, women are dismissed from government organizations and departments and even from teaching jobs.

In our present-day society in addition to the right to seek divorce, the right of polygamy has also been granted to men, which is the greatest blow to the rights of women and is tantamount to a cancerous tumor that destroys the family from within. Worst of all, the commentary continues, women are deprived from taking custody of their children after a divorce or the death of the husband, and in both instances the rights of women are thus violated contrary to human and Islamic standards.

The commentary concludes: The rights of our homeland's women must be revived by approving just laws on the one hand, and by dismissing fanatical and superficial individuals from state affairs, particularly judicial affairs, on the other.

RADIO-TV OFFICIAL DETAILS EXPANSION PROJECTS

GF231750 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Mar 82 p 5

[Correspondents interview with Head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani -- date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What effect has the start of operations by the Kenarak transmitter had on covering Province of Sistan va Baluchestan?

[Answer] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Kenarak transmitter is essentially for international broadcasts; Sistan va Baluchestan, however, is being covered as far as Iranshahr, where we have a radio transmitter. Kenarak covers a good portion of the province but its main objective is to cover the entire Indian subcontinent, southern Saudi Arabia and parts of the Persian Gulf.

[Question] Will new radio networks be put into operation in townships in the near future?

[Answer] Yes, we have installed a television transmitter in Bushehr, which had none before. This will become operational about the beginning of next week for a trial period and will be officially opened. There will be a radio transmitter as well. Formerly, there was only a 1-kw transmitter in the city. We have changed it to a 50-kw transmitter which will cover all of Bushehr Province. The work on this should have been finished but, since the area chosen for the transmitter is under water and the areas close to the sea have special conditions, our brothers were unable to pour the foundations for the antenna. It was supposed to be ready by 11 February. There is a strong possibility, however, that it will be ready for operation before the new year. In Bakhtaran [Kermanshahan] Province there is a very powerful [transmitter] ready for operation. This will start experimental work around the beginning of next week. The necessary tests have already been carried out and it will officially go into operation around the beginning of next week.

[Question] The imam in his message on 11 February criticized the weakness of Iranian propaganda abroad and asked the government to rectify the problem and expand the radio network. What has the Voice and Vision done about this?

[Answer] When I was first received in the holy presence of the imam as managing director of the Voice and Vision, he stressed the matter of propaganda and boosting television and radio transmission for both the internal and external services. On the bases of the imam's guidance, we have been trying to answer the call of the imam and the nation. Internally, as you know, and as it has been reported, since I have been in charge of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic several radio stations have started working. So far we have installed 53 or 54 television relays. In comparison to work done in the first 3 years of the revolution, this is four times as much work. The technical division has worked on a total of 27 relays, 10 of them in the latter part of 1980 and 17 in early 1981. However, during the past year and while I have been carrying out my duties, to date around 53 relays have been installed. The department responsible for installing the relays has been able to increase coverage in terms of percentages of the population by 4 percent compared to 1980. Even compared to 1981, coverage has gone up by 4.5 percent. Of course, the Bushehr station is not included in these calculations. When the Bushehr center opens it will put another portion of the province under coverage. In the field of radio external services, we have the Chah Bahar transmitter center which has a large coverage area. There are also other centers which boost the external services. By changing a number of frequencies and the time of some of the broadcasts -- to suit antennas for coverage -- we have extended our services to other portions of the world. With respect to programs, we have had a great change for our external services as well as in the hours of broadcast. At present we have 38 external service programs in 10 languages and they are improving in terms of content and increasing in term of numbers and duration daily.

Some activities have been carried out in this respect and, God willing, we will be able to use what facilities we have to make the message of the Islamic revolution heard around the world. We have been working in the field of shortwave broadcasts as well and have signed a contract for 4 transmitters with 16 antennas with a Swiss company. They have a range of 1,500 km. This will be effective for both internal and external broadcasts and, of course, depending on the type of antenna used, will enable us to put all parts of the Muslim world under our coverage. This program is, of course, a long-term project and will last 30 months before the transmitters are operational.

Right now we are trying to [train] people so that when the time comes the transmitters will be used correctly.

Tailoring programs to suit various countries is a difficult task. The culture of a country, its Islamic culture and teachings have to be recognized and programs should be tailored to suit the needs of the oppressed people of those countries. Preparations are being made for this task.

[Question] What action has been taken to increase the Voice and Vision's external service activities?

[Answer] I answered this earlier. External services, first of all, require qualified people to prepare programs and, second, technical equipment. From the point of view of technical facilities, some have been purchased and contracts have been signed. Some, like Chah Bahar, are operational. Programming has already started in a certain way [as published] to broadcast the message of the Islamic revolution and various things are broadcast by the Voice of Islamic Republic. In order to maintain the direction of the revolution, broadcasts are tailored for particular regions.